SHUT UP!
SMASH
...JUST SHUT UP AND GET OUT OF MY HEAD...
DAMN IT...DAMN THIS...
SHARON?
AAHH!
FREEZE!
DAMN, GIRL... RELAX. IT'S JUST ME.
SAM...YOU SCARED THE $#@% OUT OF ME. I ALMOST SHOT YOU.
I NOTICED. YOU OKAY?

WHY DOES FURY THINK BUCKY'S IN TROUBLE?
BUCK'S BEEN ACCESSING S.H.I.E.L.D. DATABASES TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE STORING CAP'S SHIELD.
SO, ISN'T IT ON DISPLAY?

NAH. IT'S TOO VALUABLE, AND TOO DANGEROUS.
IT'S AT A S.H.I.E.L.D. LAB HERE IN TOWN. BUCK FOUND THAT OUT. THEN HE STOLE SOME STUFF FROM FURY'S ARMORY AND WENT DARK.

HE'S AFTER THE SHIELD?
FOR STARTERS. FURY FOLLOWED THE KID'S TRAIL, THOUGH, AND FOUND SOMETHING ELSE.
ON TOP OF THIS, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S PLANNING TO KILL TONY STARK.

THAT IDIOT'S GOING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED OR CAPTURED...
YEAH... OR WHACK THE HEAD OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S BAD.

AND ACCORDING TO FURY, BUCK'S ALREADY COMPROMISED SOME OF HIS ASSETS.
ALL RIGHT, THEN...LET'S GO.

Compromised Assets
AND YOU'RE CERTAIN IT'S NOT BROADCASTING NOW?
YES, SIR, IT'S DEAD TO THE WORLD.
HOW ARE THE AGENTS IT ATTACKED?
BOTH IN INTENSIVE CARE, WITH SKULL FRACTURES. DOCTORS ARE OPTIMISTIC, THOUGH.
BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT THIS NICK FURY L.M.D. HAS BEEN COMPROMISED FOR AT LEAST THE LAST FEW WEEKS.
IT'S BEEN ERASING ITS OWN MEMORY ALMOST HOURLY SINCE THEN. BUT THAT'S ALL WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT.
SO WE DON'T KNOW WHO'S BEEN CONTROLLING IT?
WE KNOW IT'S NOT US, SIR, BUT OTHER THAN THAT...IT COULD BE ANYONE FROM DR. DOOM TO THE RED SKULL...TO THE REAL NICK FURY HIMSELF.
NO. FURY WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN IT AWAY THIS EASILY. NOT FOR THIS.

Old Friends
THEY DO EXACTLY WHAT I EXPECT AND MOVE THE SHIELD.
I PROBABLY COULD HAVE GOTTEN IN AND TAKEN IT, BUT THIS WAY WILL BE BETTER.
STILL, AS MUCH OF A ROOKIE AS STARK IS AT RUNNING AN ORGANIZATION LIKE THIS, HE DOES THIS MOVE RIGHT.
FOUR ARMORED TRANSPORTS EXIT THE S.H.I.E.L.D. LAB AT THE SAME TIME, ALL GOING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
THE IDEA IS THAT THREE OF THEM ARE DIVERSIONS, SO NO ONE WILL KNOW WHICH TO HIT.
BUT I ROLL THE DICE AND WAIT FOR THEM ALL TO FADE INTO THE DISTANCE...
...AND A FEW MINUTES LATER, A SINGLE CAR DRIVES UP FROM UNDERGROUND.
DO NOT ENTER
RESTRICTED AREA
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES ONLY
I'M ALMOST IMPRESSED, BECAUSE THAT'S HOW I WOULD HAVE DONE IT...

A LONG TIME AGO, NATALIA ROMANOVA MADE ME REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS TO FEEL. HUMAN.
AND THEY PUNISHED US BOTH FOR THAT, IN DIFFERENT WAYS.
FIGHTING HER NOW IS LIKE PUNISHING MYSELF ALL OVER AGAIN.